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Free medical assistance to Ministers.

* 138 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of Ministers who were given free medical assistance by the Government during the year 1952–53; and

(*b*) the amount of expenditure incurred on that account?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) It is presumed that the hon. the Member wants information regarding the medical assistance given not only to the Ministers but also to the members of their families. On this basis a statement [a] is laid on the table of the House."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Will the Government consider the advisability of extending free medical assistance to the Members of this House also? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Only those whose monthly income is less than Rs. 100 are given free medical aid, Sir."

Loss due to floods in the Cauvery.

* 139 *Q.*—SRI M. PALANIYANDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the loss incurred on account of the floods in the Cauvery, Coleroon and Bhavani rivers during August 1953; and

(*b*) what are the ameliorative measures taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Due to floods in the Cauvery and Coleroon rivers in the middle of August 1953, Chintamani which is a low lying area in Tiruchirappalli town was inundated and about 25 huts out of 70 collapsed and about 700 persons were rendered homeless. All of them were immediately removed to safe quarters and arrangements were made to feed them with public help. There has been no loss of human life or cattle or property other than the huts referred to above. Further, an extent of about 1,600 acres in the villages of Chintamani, Woraiyur, Pandamangalam, Puthur, Devadanam, Kambarasampettai and Marudandakurichi lying continguous to one another was water-logged and in Musiri taluk water-logging was reported in about 350 acres of lands in four or five villages. During the time the floods lasted, elaborate arrangements were made with the help of local philanthrophic men to feed the affected persons and the municipal authorities made satisfactory sanitary arrangements. A non-official committee was formed and in response to an appeal made by the committee, a sum of Rs. 5,452 was collected. In addition, the Government also propose to make cash grants to the tune of Rs. 3,620 to the persons affected by the floods."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 286 infra.

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SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" காவேரியில் கொஞ்சம் தண்ணீர் அதிகமாக வந்தாலும்கூட சிந்தாமணி, பாண்டமங்கலம் போன்ற இடங்களில் தண்ணீர் எதிர்த்துக்கொண்டு பயிர்கள் நாசமடைந்துவிடுகின்றன. ஆகையால் முக்கொம்பில் ஒரு அணை கட்டுவதற்கு இந்த அரசாங்கம் ஏதாவது திட்டம் போடுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Will the hon. Member refer that question to the Hon. Minister for Public Works? "

* 89 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question will be taken up to-morrow."

Beggar problem.

* 99 [a] *Q.*—SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have statistics of the approximate number of beggars in this State; and

(*b*) whether the Government are giving financial aid to those municipalities that have initiated schemes to tackle the beggar problem?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) No, Sir."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" Have not the Government provided beggar homes and employment to able-bodied beggars in the State? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is a bigger problem and the Government are considering that question."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Are the Government inclined to help municipalities which undertake this kind of relief for the destitutes? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" So far we have not given any assistance. But it is true that certain municipalities are running some beggar homes."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" Is it under the instructions of Government that beggars in towns were actually gathered and taken to distant places in police vans when the Chief Minister visited Malabar recently? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have no information, Sir."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMANY :—" Have the Government included in the term 'beggars', unemployed weavers who have come down to Madras? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, I do not think they are included."

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[a] **Postponed from the list of questions for 17th December 1953.**